

Pilot No. 2 : Find Alternative Means to Meet Non-Housing Community Development Plan Requirement

Focus: Consolidated Plan Document

Purpose:

To determine whether this change would reduce the administrative burden, and ultimately, whether the non-housing Community Development Plan requirement can be modified or eliminated

Participants:

Westchester County, NY

Pilot Description:

To evaluate alternatives for meeting Consolidated Plan requirements for non-housing community needs and strategies currently required by Section 104(m) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974. Although HUD regulations do not require Consolidated Plans to address the entire range of a community's non-housing needs, grantees find this requirement burdensome and, in certain instances, not particularly meaningful as insufficient funds exist to meet all identified needs. However, grantees that receive CDBG funds must identify (1) priority non-housing needs and CDBG-eligible strategies to address them, and (2) specific long- and short-term community development objectives.

Participants in this pilot would develop streamlined Consolidated Plans that meet non-housing requirements and, at the same time, reduce administrative burden. Jurisdictions would:

1. work with HUD staff to clearly identify required non-housing information (text and tables.);
2. develop Consolidated Plans with streamlined non-housing information; and
3. evaluate whether this strategy reduces their administrative burden and in what ways, and whether this new format provides a planning document useful to grantees and the public.

Summary of Grantee Pilots:

Westchester, NY plans to replace their hard copy Consolidated Plan that will be submitted as a CD ROM-oriented internet viewable edition. They expect that providing the information electronically on a CD-ROM and on the county's website will better convey the county's needs, the housing market, and the selected strategies over the 5 years. They expect that the public and agencies will be better engaged and provide better feedback and will measure attendance at meetings and visitors to the website.

Pilot No. 2 Status as of December 31, 2003

Westchester County, NY demonstrated the format they propose to use for the non-housing community development plan at a recent meeting of the National Association of County, Community and Economic Development Association and the HUD Field Office. The multimedia approach uses a variety of photographs, tables, and charts to show illustrate community development needs that were developed through a series of meetings in various parts of the county. The plan was posted on the Internet for public comment in January, 2004. It is available at: <http://www.westchestergov.com/planning/housing/ConsolidatedPlan04/WEB%20SITE/IntroPageHTML/ConPlan04.htm> .